

OK TO ENTER /MG/

Claims 1-6 (cancelled)

Claim 7 (currently amended) ~~The method of claim 1,~~ A method for progressively improving a fit of a pool of reusable environments to requirements of programs in a computer system, the method comprising steps of:

providing a first environment for a first program;

responsive to initiation of a second program, making a determination whether creation of a new environment is a best response;

responsive to a determination that creation of a new environment is a best response, creating a new environment for the second program;

responsive to a determination that creating a new environment is not a best response, testing the pool for a best fit environment; and

adding elements to the best fit environment to match requirements of the second program, unless the best fit environment already matches the requirements of the second program;

wherein the step of responsive to initiation of a second program, making a determination whether creation of a new environment is a best response comprises testing whether the pool has reached a maximum size.

Claim 8 (original) The method of claim 7, wherein the step of responsive to a determination that the pool has reached its maximum size, testing the pool for a best fit environment comprises a programmatically alterable test.

Claims 9-10 (cancelled)

Claim 11 (original) A computer system for progressively improving a fit of a pool of reusable environments to requirements of programs in a computer system, the computer system comprising:

means for providing a first environment for a first program;

means responsive to initiation of a second program, for making a determination whether creation of a new environment is a best response;

means responsive to a determination that creation of a new environment is a best response, for creating a new environment for the second program;

means responsive to a determination that creating a new environment is not a best response, for testing the pool for a best fit environment; and

means for adding elements to the best fit environment to match requirements of the second program, unless the best fit environment already matches the requirements of the second program.

Claim 12 (original) The computer system of claim 11, wherein at least one of the first, new and best fit environments is an execution environment.

Claim 13 (original) The computer system of claim 12, wherein the execution environment is preinitialized.

Claim 14 (original) The computer system of claim 11, wherein at least one of the first, new and best fit environments is eligible to be deleted.

Claim 15 (original) The computer system of claim 14, wherein at least one least recently used of the first, new and best fit environments is eligible to be deleted.

Claim 16 (original) The computer system of claim 11, wherein the elements are parameters of at least one of the first, the new and the best fit environments.

Claim 17 (original) The computer system of claim 11, wherein the means responsive to initiation of a second program, for making a determination whether creation of a new environment is a best response comprises means for testing whether the pool has reached a maximum size.

Claim 18 (original) The computer system of claim 17, wherein the means, responsive to a determination that the pool has reached its maximum size, for testing the pool for a best fit environment comprises means for performing a programmatically alterable test.